

Yadkin County as well as many of the other counties of this northwest region have a good potential in producing ornamental shrubs. There are several shrub nurseries in Davie County. The enterprise that appears especially promising at the present time is Christmas trees. Net returns per acre for fir Christmas trees have been estimated to average nearly \$200 annually, and the best thing about it is that these trees can be produced on land too steep for row crops.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The rapid decline in number of farms was naturally accompanied by a similar decline in farm population and economic adjustments at the farm level induced changes in other related segments of the local economy. For example, consolidation of schools, closing of rural groceries, the dwindling number of rural hardware and implement stores, all depict a trend toward bigness and centralization of farm oriented businesses.

It must be recognized that Yadkin County is part of an open economy relying upon free exchange of agricultural commodities for its well-being. The plan of most of the farmers in Yadkin seems to be to produce sufficient corn, small grain and hay to feed their livestock and to grow tobacco as the main cash crop. Large consumer markets, such as Winston-Salem, are convenient to the county. Although other areas of North Carolina have similar agricultural resources it is, nevertheless, possible for Yadkin County to corner for itself a portion of the state's agricultural markets.

A few observations about agriculture and growth are germane at this point:

— It is, and always has been, a way for life as well as a business; in the future it may become almost entirely a business.